



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/978,484      | 10/17/2001  | Mark B. Littlejohn   | 2312 (FJ-00-39)     | 5150             |

7590 09/08/2003  
MICHAEL W. FERRELL, ESQ.  
FERRELLS, PLLC  
P.O. BOX 312  
CLIFTON, VA 20124-1706

EXAMINER

MAI, TRI M

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

3727

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 3727

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. The reply filed on 06/30/03 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because:  
applicant fails to elect a species as set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action dated 06/11/03  
and provide claims readable thereon. Please also note the statement on paragraph 7:  
“Due to numerous claims in the present application, this is to serve notice that failure to provide  
a proper election in response to this Office Action will not be considered as a bona-fide attempt.”
2. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application  
will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time  
under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee  
have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the  
corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH  
statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for  
reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid  
abandonment of this application.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the  
examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (703)308-1038. The  
examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lee W Young can be reached on (703)308-2572. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1148.

Tri M. Mai  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

*T. Mai*